



"Committed to the protection and promotion of public health."

Gallatin City-County Health Department

****Health Alert Network (HAN) Message****

Message Type: Advisory
To: Health Care Providers
Date: 4/27/09
Re: Swine Influenza

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) continues to update state and local public health officials regarding the swine influenza situation on a regular basis, and Gallatin City-County Health Department will continue to update you as indicated.

At this time, there are no known probable or confirmed cases of swine influenza in Montana. However, it is important that healthcare professionals consider the possibility of swine influenza in patients presenting with influenza-like illness and submit respiratory specimens to the Montana Public Health Laboratory for testing.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CLINICIANS

1. Maintain vigilance for cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) defined as follows: **Fever** $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ / 37.8°C (oral or equivalent) **AND cough and/or sore throat** in the absence of a KNOWN cause other than influenza.
2. For patients with ILI as defined above:
 - a. Conduct Rapid Test for presence of Influenza virus.
 - b. If positive for Influenza A, obtain respiratory swab for viral testing using a Dacron tipped swab with an aluminum or plastic shaft. Place in viral transport medium, label with patient information and refrigerate until the specimen can be sent for testing at the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MPHL). Send specimens under cold conditions. DO NOT send to a referral laboratory. **Testing will be provided at no cost to the patient or provider.** Information on shipping to MPHL can be obtained by calling 1-800-821-7284.
 - c. NOTIFY local public health officials regarding cases of ILI. The local health department can assist with case investigation and follow-up, if needed.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

In order to identify potential cases in Montana, Gallatin City-County Health Department will:

1. SUSTAIN current influenza-like illness surveillance activity and *increase frequency* of contact with key active surveillance partners (providers, schools, nursing homes, etc) to *daily*.
2. ENCOURAGE CLINICIANS who identify cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) to submit respiratory specimens to the Montana Public Health Laboratory.
3. NOTIFY the Communicable Disease Epidemiology program at 444-0273 about suspected or probable individual cases and/or clusters of influenza-like illness in your community.
4. EDUCATE THE PUBLIC about control measures for seasonal influenza:
 - Persons with febrile respiratory illness should stay home to avoid spreading illness to others in their community.
 - Cough or sneeze into your elbow or a tissue and properly dispose of used tissues.
 - Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to get rid of most germs and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
 - Stay healthy by eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of water and getting adequate rest and exercise.

RESOURCES

General information about swine flu

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/general_info.htm

Swine Flu Infection Control and Patient Care

http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidelines_infection_control.htm

Preventing the Flu

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/habits.htm>

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert	Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Adviso	Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update	Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.